



Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda October 9, 2015

MEETING MINUTES

The Open Session of the Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College was called to order at 8:30 am on the above date at 150 Washington Street, Providence, RI, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Act, so called other APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE General Laws of the state of the Rhode Island as amended.

Board Members Present: Donna Policastro, Angela Patterson, Jane Williams, Charles Alexandre, Christine Rei, Gerald Williams, Jody Jencks, Julian Drix

Excused: Nancy McMahon, Mary Sullivan

Staff Present: Pamela McCue, CEO, Mike Abney, CFO, Keith Oliveira, COO, Colleen Hitchings, CAO, Patricia LaSalle, Executive Assistant

Guest: Loureana Soares, Leonard Lopes

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Donna Policastro. A quorum was established.

2. Discussion/vote to approve September 18, 2015 meeting minutes.

On motion by Christine Rei, and seconded by Charles Alexandre, the present board members unanimously voted to accept the minutes of September 18, 2015.

3. Discussion/vote to approve agenda and Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairwoman Policastro asked if any board members had a conflict of interest with any of the agenda items. No members declared a conflict of interest.

On motion by Charles Alexander, and seconded by Angela Patterson, the present board members unanimously voted to approve the October 9, 2015 agenda.

4. Open Public Comment period- None was provided

5. President's report-No report at this time.

6. Cape Verde Presentation-

Loureana Soares, the faculty member who accompanied the students on this trip informed the Board that the students had a psychology exam that morning and could not be present at this meeting. Ms. Soares said that the students were looking forward to discussing their trip and will provide a personation to them at the November Board meeting. .

7. Administrative Reports

I. CEO Report

Mrs. McCue asked Colleen Hitching to provide a report on the Science NECAP scores

- i. Colleen Hitchings reported the Science NECAP scores to the Board. She gave explanation that the low scores were attributed to; 1) many students and families tried to “opt out” of the test originally. Even after discussion with student and families resulting in the students taking the test-faculty expressed that students did not take the test seriously and did not give their best effort; 2) the NECAP assessed science competency in subject areas (physical sciences and earth sciences) that are not taught at RINIMC and are taught in the 9th grade at the student’s “sending district”. Therefore RINI is held accountable to subjects taught at another school which is just another challenge of the model that begins in the 10th grade.
 - Dr. Williams offered to have RIC students meet with RINI students to express the importance of knowing how to take standardized test since the nursing licensure exam is required for entry into practice. She also stated that RIC developed a support system for test taking and would be happy to discuss this in more detail with Mrs. Hitchings.
 - Mr. Gerald Williams suggested that students take PSAT’s in 10th grade SAT in 11th grade (as practice, and again in 12th grade.

i. Financial Report

Mike Abney informed the Board

- That the annual audit should be ready to be presented at the November Board meeting.
- Enrollment for State Aid purposes came in under our projection, it will be adjusted for January - June 2016. We will find out how much the adjustment will be by mid-November.
- Invoiced for 196 students for quarter 2 on 10/1/2015 for local district aid.
- Have already started a corrective plan to reduce expenses in light of the lower enrollment totals moving forward.

8. Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) – discussions pertaining to litigation: Chariho Regional School District, et al. v. Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College, et al and pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) other litigation

Prior to convening executive session, the Board of Trustees shall make a statement that all persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the interview/discussion be held at an open meeting

- On motion of Jody Jencks and seconded by Angela Patterson, the present board members unanimously voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) – discussions pertaining to litigation: Chariho Regional School District, et al. v. Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College, et al and pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(2) other litigation
- Upon vote of the Board to come out of executive session, Chairwoman Policastro called the Open Session back to order at 9:38 am.
- Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session Pursuant to Sections of 42-46-5 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

On motion of Christine Rei and seconded by Angela Patterson the present Board members unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in the Executive Session and to seal those minutes.

9. New Business

I. Discussion/Vote on 2016-2017 RINI Middle College Model

-Ms. McCue proposed to the Board that RINI Middle College request an amendment to the charter that would revise the model from a 10th to 12th plus grade model to a 9-12 the grade model. Ms. McCue offered the following explanations; It is difficult to recruit students in the 10th grade-students already

make a huge transition from 8th to 9th grade and many do not want to make another transition in 10th grade; the rigorous academic courses for admission to a 4 year nursing degree need to begin in 9th grade-too late to begin in 10th grade; several districts are challenging the 12th plus model the funding of it. Mr. Williams was concerned about how the school's profile will look to other colleges if model is changed. Dr. Williams expressed that the new model makes sense to admission officers and will be easy to understand. Chairwoman Policastro suggested that RINI meet with the Directors of Admission from RIC and URI all at once to explain the change in model and answer all questions.

Mr. Drix inquired about receiving data on Student views on eliminating the 12+ year.

Nancy McMahon suggested a communications plan for staff and community.

Dr. Williams asked how about the process in making this request to RIDE. Ms. McCue explained a written formal request for an amendment must be sent to the Commissioner of Education.

On motion of Nancy McMahon and seconded by Jane Williams, the present Board members

Chairwoman Policastro- Yes
Angela Patterson- Yes
Jane Williams- Yes
Charles Alexandre- Yes

Christine Rei-Yes
Gerald Williams-Yes
Jody Jencks- Yes
Julian Drix- Yes

unanimously voted to request an amendment to the charter to shift grades from 10-12th plus to 9-12th.

II. Discussion/Vote for the amendment of the RINIMC Crisis Response Plan

On motion by Charles Alexandre, and seconded by Angela Patterson, the present board members unanimously voted to approve amend the RINIMC Crisis Response Plan as proposed.

III. Discussion/Vote for the approval of the RINIMC Policy and Procedures Time and Effort Reporting Requirements Federal Grant Program

On motion by Charles Alexandre, and seconded by Christine Rei, the present board members unanimously voted to approve the RINIMC Policy and Procedures Time and Effort Reporting Requirements Federal Grant Program

Announcements for the good and welfare of the organization

RISNA will have 2 educational programs, Gender gaps in Nursing and Financial Health, and is looking for attendees.

Care New England is creating a Behavior Health Platform focusing on substance abuse. CNE will be partnering with High Schools and is interesting in having RINI students take part.

10. Adjournment

On motion of Jane Williams seconded by Angela Patterson it was unanimously voted to adjourn 10:06 a.m.